

It is important to encourage and support all of our children and by excluding gay youth the Boy Scouts of America is preventing every young man from experiencing the positive benefits Scouting can offer.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

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**HON. JIM McDERMOTT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, November 20, 2004*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I am unable to be in Washington, DC today. Two weeks ago, I injured my leg and my physician prefers that I not put it through the stress of an airplane flight from my home in Seattle, WA to Washington, DC. Were I able to attend today's session in the House of Representatives, I would have voted in support of H. Res. 847, H.R. 5370, S. Con. Res. 8, S. 2618, H.R.

5365, S. 2781, H.R. 4324, S. 150, S. Con. Res. 146, H.R. 5360, H.R. 1350, H. Res. 858, and H. Res. 859.

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TRIBUTE TO FRANCESC DE PAULA SOLER

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**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, November 20, 2004*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to once again acknowledge the gifted composer and musician Francesc de Paula Soler. On November 8, 2004 he performed at the Library of Congress in an event sponsored by the Library's Hispanic Division. This special event was part of the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, which allows us to acknowledge our roots and celebrate the accomplishments of Hispanic-Americans in this great nation.

Mr. Soler grew up in Spain and began classical guitar lessons at the age of 6. Under the tutelage of two legendary guitarists, Andrés Segovia and Narciso Yepes, he received rigorous and intensive training with in classical guitar and has truly become a legend in his own right. Mr. Soler has played music halls and auditoriums throughout the United States and Europe, mesmerizing his audiences and earning the nickname "The Poet of the Guitar."

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Soler has graced us with his presence before, playing concerts at the Library of Congress that have both entertained us and lifted our spirits. I was very pleased that he returned to play for us this year and I hope he will continue to bless us with his amazing performances in the years to come. I ask that my colleagues once again join me in paying tribute to Mr. Francesc de Paula Soler.